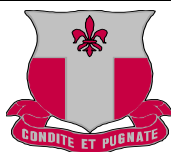




Lumberjack Newsletter

VOLUME I, ISSUE IX

December 2004



From the Commander . . . LTC Barrett Holmes

It is just before midnight on Christmas Eve at Iron Horse Base in eastern Baghdad. CSM Thomas and I have just finished distributing Christmas to all the soldiers of the 20th Engineer Battalion from the Family Readiness Group. We went from room to room and operations center to operations center to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Not every soldier was present as we made our way through the barracks - clad in our Santa hats, carrying two large drawstring DCU bags filled with gifts. As you know, this is a combat zone and the entire Forward Operating Base can never fully sleep or rest. We must always remain vigilant and combat ready.

The soldiers that were not in their rooms were performing vital missions such as tower guards, gate sentries and counter mortar patrol to ensure everyone inside the walls of IRONHORSE Base remains safe. For the soldiers not present, we placed the gift on their pillow so when they returned from their mission, they would find their Christmas gift from home. Some soldiers were sleeping in preparation for missions to come in the wee hours of the morning; we placed their gifts beside their bunks so they would be surprised by their visit from 'Santa 1' and 'Santa 2'.

Earlier today, CSM Thomas and I visited Bravo Company at Camp

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CSM Thomas and LTC Holmes "Santa 1&2"

The Night Before Christmas CSM Matthew Thomas

'Twas the night before Christmas on IRONHORSE Base
Some soldiers were sleeping and some were awake.

The night had been quiet--not even a shot,
The Lumberjacks were on patrol with the best soldiers we've got.

There were soldiers in towers and soldiers in tracks,
All were vigilant and fierce as they watched each other's back.

The Adj with her antlers and SGT Yang with her Christmas hat,
One took pictures while the other watched soldiers on the internet chat.

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Animal News

CPT Marc Distefano

Also I heard a voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and whom will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." – Isaiah 6:8

For the past month, we have been extremely fortunate to receive literally tons of mail, special packages, and gifts for the Christmas season. We are humbled by the giving, and in most of the messages to the Soldiers, it is similar: **family, friends, and perfect strangers are very proud of the Soldiers, proud of their sacrifice, and thankful that they can go to sleep at night knowing that it is the willing out here trying to make Iraq a safer place in order to keep peace at home.** I am very proud of their contributions, and I can tell you up front that the Soldiers enjoy the wide spread support, and their holiday season was made a little bit better from the cards, gift packages, and food from back home.

In keeping the spirit of making a safer and secure Iraq, all the platoons lent a helping hand in the communities near IRONHORSE Base over the past month. 2nd Platoon planned, coordinated, and supervised a small price tag project that had great results in improving the everyday lives of some children by converting a trash dump into a playground for children. Providing the tools, the soldiers handed out rakes, shovels, and brooms to kids to help in the effort. Contractors came in and collected the trash and installed playground equipment. In less than two days, children were playing soccer and swinging in an area previously covered in unhealthy trash. 3rd Platoon did something similar by collecting hundreds of book bags

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Clockwise starting from the top: SSG(P) Pendleton smiling big on Christmas after receiving his gift courtesy of the staff of Distefano Clinic of Dentistry; Colonel Abrams re-enlisting SPC Cantu and SPC Rodriguez for four years in Hawaii (Animals surged the end of 2nd QTR with re-enlistments signing on 8 great Americans to Stay Army); SFC Schmidt along with 2nd Platoon supervising some "local labor" as they clear a trash pit to make a children's playground; and SFC Ballard lending a helping hand with local laborers installing new electrical transmission lines in Nine Nissan.





Barracuda News

CPT Richard A. Turk

December was a very emotional month for the Barracudas. On 4 December 2004, the Barracuda family lost SGT Michael Luke Boatright during a security mission. SGT Boatright was killed when an Improvised Explosive Device (road side bomb) exploded. Our sincerest condolences are sent to Michael's family; his wife Desty; Children Colton, Tanna, Zoie and all of the Boatright family.

He was our brother and is missed everyday. Our thoughts are also with our injured brothers, but the individuals who were injured will recover from their wounds. 1LT Drouin and DOC Kelly have returned to the unit and are doing fine. SSG Campbell, SPC Dunker, and SPC Bruns were evacuated back to the States and are recovering from their injuries. We miss them and wish them all the best during their recovery, and we will see them soon.

As the Barracudas have done in the past, they bravely continued their missions and maintained a very high operational tempo. Within a week, the Barracuda's led a Brigade size operation to capture known transnational terrorists. The location was inside the Barracuda's area of responsibility and we led the operation from the front. An Engineer company led an Armor Brigade Task Force operation, which speaks volumes to the level of excellence and confidence the Brigade has in the Barracudas. I am proud of the soldiers, as is the entire task force. During the operation we successfully detained key personnel and completely disrupted the organization by removing key leadership.

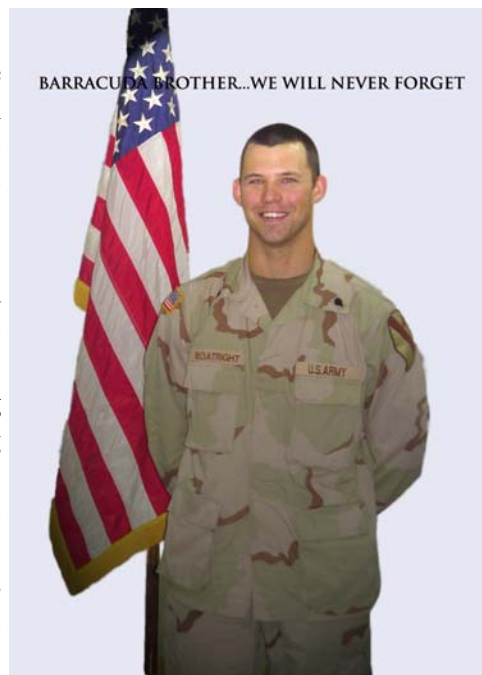
The following day the Barracudas were back providing food and supplies to the people of the area.



SSG England pulling security.

Additionally, the Animals and Lumberjack 3 and 6 assisted with coordinating for contractors to come in and repair the damage done during our operation. Expectedly the people of the neighborhood were skittish and reluctant to accept our assistance, but after we spoke with them the people were more acceptant and have gradually become more receptive and cooperative to our presence. For the remainder of the month the Barracudas continued to execute standard missions, such as security patrols, route security, and quick reaction force.

For Christmas the mission schedule was still busy, in light of the events that happened in Mosul we had to ensure our security was as tight as possible. However, we were able to find a small block of time on Christmas Eve for a company Christmas party. At the party we handed out stockings and packages made by many different organizations. The Barracudas would like to thank Ms. Diana White (Mother of SPC Anthony White, 3rd Platoon) and all of the members of Blue Star Mothers of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Words could not express our gratitude for your support and gifts during the holidays and throughout the year. We would also like to thank the Barracuda FRG; Mrs. Morgan Whisenant, Mrs. Jess Stocker, Mrs. Kim Torkelson, and all of the spouses who assisted in the collection and creation of the gift bags. Your support is immeasurable and we could not thank you enough for your sacrifices this year. Finally, we would like to thank the Lumberjack FRG. The gift bags from the Lumberjack family were very



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Castle News

CPT Zachary Miller

I hope that every member of the Battalion's team, here and at home, had an enjoyable holiday season. I know that our deployed soldiers were the focus of many celebrations back at home and take comfort in the fact that our families are so well taken care of, even after more than 10 months of deployment. The support we received from a number of individuals and groups was incredible and I assure you that every soldier deeply appreciates all the efforts that so many put into making the season festive. This is an exciting time for all, and I know the new year could not have come fast enough for any of us.

As you would expect, the soldiers of Castle have continued to perform their duties with the same diligence and discipline that we have all come to expect. We have had some busy times this past month, but platoon leaders and sergeants have managed their units magnificently and we are none the worse for wear. I anticipate more busy days ahead, due primarily to the tasks associated with redeploying and training another unit to take our place. However, I think we all agree that such work is more than welcomed since it is a necessary step to our eventual redeployment.

Among other activities, we recently delivered over two-hundred backpacks and other school items

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Castle soldiers display some of the Christmas gifts sent by a group in southern Maine, one of the many groups that have supported the company.



Thunder News

CPT Thomas L. St. John

From the Commander: HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I want to thank the FRG for the Christmas tree and decorations sent and to thank 1SG and the headquarters section for their decorating talents. Our barracks and dayroom looked great for Christmas. Nothing can replace a Christmas at home but I know the soldiers appreciated participating in some of their Christmas traditions with their extended family here in Iraq.

We are well into the fourth quarter of this deployment. When playing sports the fourth quarter is a gut check because your energy has been depleted and if you relax you can get injured. I have been watching your soldiers closely this last month and they are focused on their missions. I cannot tell you how much I am impressed by their professionalism. I am confident in each one of their abilities. It has been a long 9+ months but I have seen a renewed excitement among the soldiers as we work to complete all the tasks required to bring us back home to our loved ones. The redeployment plan is still on schedule.

January is a very exciting time for the people of Iraq. At the end of this month they will be participating in an election of 275 representatives to the Iraqi National Assembly. Their main purpose will be the creation of their country's constitution. It is very fulfilling to watch the Iraqi people participate in the freedoms that we have enjoyed in America for over 200 years. We should all be proud of the work accomplished thus far in Iraq. Each and every HHC soldier has answered the call to service when they volunteered for the Army and have continued to serve with distinction during this deployment to Iraq. They bring great honor to this unit, their families, and themselves as they continue to be a living part of history. I am proud of all of the great Americans who make up the HHC, 20th Engineer Battalion Family. THUNDER!

Thunder 6



Colonel Abrams and SPC Steen pose together at SPC Steen's re-enlistment.

Thunder Mike: Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! This month, SGT Rosado made a wise decision for his Army career this month and re-enlisted for 4 more wonderful years and will PCS back to Germany upon return from Iraq. SGT Denton has been working hard on keeping the Local National Pay Sheets correct and accurate to ensure the Iraqis working for us are being treated and paid fairly. He's been doing a great job at it, in which it frees up his leaders to work on other important tasks. SPC Goble has been the point man for the recent FOB construction we had going on. He was responsible for planning and supervising the emplacement of barriers around the base's interpreter shack for more protection. He also was the main guy for supervising over 15 Iraqi workers while they emplaced a cement turn pad on the base. He has been doing great work. SGT Solomon and his Supply Clerks: SPC Williams, SPC Holley-Johnson, and SPC Powers ensured that all of HHC's equipment was on the proper hand receipts this month. Their efforts now will expedite our hand-over to our replacement unit next year while maintaining accountability of everything going back to Fort Hood. This year's Christmas Holidays were not the same for us without our families and friends around. However, we

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Thunder News cont.

(Continued from page 5)

made the most out of what we have right now, each other. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all from your THUNDER FAMILY here in Baghdad, Iraq.

Thunder 5

From the S3 Section: As 2004 comes to a close, the S3 Shop (MIKE, ABE, Infrastructure and Bloodhounds) finds itself as busy as ever. Though we are away from family and friends during this holiday season we have a great deal to be thankful for. As the S-3, I am thankful for your sacrifices at home and I am extremely thankful for the selfless efforts of all the members of this outstanding team. You would be amazed if you could witness the tasks that every member of the shop accomplishes on a daily basis. They are without a doubt the catalyst that drives this battalion daily.

Recently the "MIKE", led by CPT Greg Turner, provide command and control for one of the Battalion's most significant operations to date when Animal and 766th OD CO (EOD) cleared Sadr City of buried roadside bombs. The success of this effort allowed the Infrastructure Cell to hit its stride managing the \$300 plus million dollars of work in Sadr City and 9-Nissan. The Bloodhounds, led by CPT George O'Malley, continue to make their mark daily by blazing new trails in the world of IED tracking. Recently the commanding general, MG Chiarelli, personally recognized the efforts of SFC Wilmot and SGT Brogan

(Continued on page 7)



From L-R: Kneeling: CPT Greg Turner, SSG Alfred Morgan, SPC Karl Adams, SGT Scott Brogan, SSG Alfredo Rivera, CPT Carlos Sepulveda. Middle Row: MSG Kevin Smith, PVT Michael O'Brien, SSG Kyle Ball, CPT John Burescia, 1LT Gary McDonald, 1LT Robert Kincaid, and 1LT William Abel. Back Row: SGT Keith Stout, SPC Milton King, SPC Justin McKinney, SPC Sisler, MAJ Peter Andrysiak, SPC Keith Sangster, CPT Steve Wickersham, SFC Scott Wilmot, and CPT George O'Malley. Not pictured: CPT DeJesus, CPT Lucitt, SFC Schneider, SGT Nieves, SPC Pitts, SPC Hill, and SPC Winn

(Continued from page 6)

with a division coin. The products they prepare are getting visibility by the G3 of the Army. The ABE, led by CPT John Burescia, is at full pace planning daily operations and is spending late nights planning our re-deployment while the terrain team continues to pull double duty preparing products for both plans and infrastructure. SGT Nieves stepped up and led the terrain team during SFC Schneider's absence.

We are happy to welcome some new members to the team. CPT Steve Wickersham, CPT Daniel Lucitt, and 1LT Will Abel joined the Infrastructure Cell. CPT Carlos Sepulveda, 1LT Gary McDonald, SSG Alfred Morgan, and SPC Justin McKinney Joined the "MIKE." The new team members are already making significant impacts on our day-to-day operations. We hope that Lorelei Sepulveda, Kim Lucitt, Traci Morgan, and Sara McKinney and their families have found a home in the Thunder FRG. We wish SPC Soto luck on his move to the Castle team. Finally, a special congratulation goes out to Jan and SPC Keith Sangster on their future baby boy, due May 15th, 2005.

Though the holiday season is difficult here in Iraq, we believe in our mission and are proud of the impacts we are having. If you have been watching the news regarding the progress in Sadr City, there is no doubt that we are improving the lives of the Iraqi people. We would like to send a greeting of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our loved ones back in the States and thank them for the strength they give us. We are on the downhill slide and look forward to the day that we can be together again.

-Lumberjack 3

From the S4 Section: Happy New Year!

Seasons Greetings from the S6 Section: Merry Christ-

mas and Happy New Year from S6. We would like to congratulate PFC and Mrs. Larry Garner on the newest addition to their family, Kameron Bailey Garner. Kameron was born on October 28, 2004 weighing 8lbs., 6oz. From the Commo family to yours, Merry Christmas.

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Commo Soldiers with stockings donated by a generous group in Maine. Back Row: SPC Williams, PFC Garner, SGT McDowell, CPT Guthrie. Middle Row: SPC Davila, PV2 Cusson, SGT Yang, SPC Felix, PFC Funez.



SFC Howard displaying his pearly whites on a recent helicopter flight.





ESE News

CPT Leah Kenfield



The Officers, NCOs and Soldiers of ESE wish each one of you a Happy New Year and with each passing newsletter we are getting a little closer to home; before long it will be truly be a happy new year. The Soldiers of ESE are continuing to perform their missions in a stellar manner.

The holiday spirit was not lacking among the great Soldiers of the Engineer Support Element. SPC Henderson, SPC Greene, B., SPC Westover and SPC Luna led the effort in creating a beautiful Christmas tree in great mechanic fashion. These soldiers crafted a Christmas tree from a sheet of steel and then painted it a lovely shade of green. They welded an angel onto the top of the tree (complete with halo) and then burned the words MERRY CHRISTMAS OIF II 2004 onto the tree. Each Soldier signed the tree with the names of their spouses, children or parents. We even had a strand of lights for the tree. The Soldiers of the PLL section fashioned bricks into presents to place under the tree. On December 8th, SGT Billups coordinated for a tree lighting ceremony. SFC Judd of HHC said a prayer and asked for blessings upon our tree. We sang a few carols and then I had the honor of "lighting" the ESE/20th Engineer Battalion Christmas tree. CPT Pizarro and 1SG Harvey paid us a visit later on in the month to spread some holiday cheer. We received stockings from our Delta Company, 115th FRG group. We have also received goodies and stockings from the 20th Engineer FRG group and we would like to thank everyone for their support during this holiday season spent so far away from home.



The ESE Christmas tree.



SSG Williams receives a stocking from the Delta Company Cdr, CPT Pizarro

Christmas Day was quite different for most of the Soldiers this year. However, we made the best of the day and took time to remember what the real meaning of Christmas is all about. As missions allowed, the Soldiers were able to have time off to enjoy the day and make calls home. Once again, our outstanding food service personnel ensured that we were served a top quality meal. The dining facility was beautifully decorated and very festive.

The dedication of our Soldiers is evident in the reenlistments that have taken place within ESE throughout the deployment. On Christmas Day, SPC Luera and SPC Walker both reenlisted. SPC Luera reenlisted for Hawaii. SPC Walker reenlisted to go to Germany. SGT Badger has also reenlisted and he will be staying at Fort Hood. This brings the total number of reenlistments within ESE (at IRON-HORSE Base) to 14.

As always, thank-you for your continued

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love and support and remember: "The Best Support the Rest."

-Lumberjack 70



The soldiers of ESE pose for a picture after SPC Luera's reenlistment on Christmas day.



The ESE angel.

Thunder News cont.

(Continued from page 7)

From the S1 Section:

Thanks to all the families and friends who sent letters, cards, and packages - we've never seen the mail room so full! To insure that your soldier gets his or her mail, we recommend that you stop sending packages at the end of January.



The S1 Section. Back Row: SPC Gamas, PFC Graham, PFC Bruerton, PFC Stuart, PFC Vangorkum, Chaplain Gordon. Front Row: SPC David, PVT Castillo, SPC Hunter, SFC Ramirez, SPC Price, CPT Sakai, SGT Alford

Animal News cont.

(Continued from page 2)

and school supplies and dropped them off in schools. They identified those schools where kids were previously throwing rocks at patrols, met the principal and teachers, and explained to the children why they were there. They handed out school supplies to the children, and now kids are waving rather than throwing rocks. Lastly, 1st Platoon handed out food boxes filled with donated supplies from home (to include Jambalaya and Cajun Dirty Rice compliments of Bon Appetit in Belton) to some extremely poor families in the immediate area. These efforts greatly assist in gaining the support of locals who can help give information on criminals and terrorists to include the locations of road side bombs.

Trust that the Animals are continuing to serve vigilantly and with focus during these last few months. They are heroes, and I appreciate that everyone looks at them that way. We hope to be home soon, but until then, may God Bless all of the “ground pounders” who do it everyday rain or shine.

-Animal 6



SPC Payne distributes school supplies to children.

Castle News cont.

(Continued from page 4)

to two of the elementary schools in the area that we routinely patrol. While these underprivileged kids can always use more, they were certainly appreciative of what we were able to give them. The company also supervised the completion of an \$800,000 underground electrical project in Sadr City. Just about every soldier in the company contributed to monitoring this project at some point over the last six months and the effects of the project will reach hundreds of thousands of people in Eastern Baghdad. Well done!

Just yesterday, medic Alexandria Torres put her skills to the test and saved the life of an Iraqi man who had been injured near IRONHORSE Base. SPC Torres, in the right place at the right time, was able to stabilize him until he could be transferred to a medical facility. The incident was an outstanding example of the competence and professionalism resident in every one of our soldiers.

LT Gary McDonald has been recognized as the most outstanding engineer platoon leader for III Corps as part of the annual engineer awards competition. He will now compete for the US Army Forces Command nomination en route to the final competition at Army level. While this is an individual award, his nomination and success is clearly the product of the great soldiers we have in the company. A leader is recognized because his soldiers were there to execute the mission; and all of ours have done just that. Choosing just one person to nominate was extremely difficult— all of our leaders are worthy of recognition. So to all of the Castle platoons and soldiers, great job.

As always, I will close by crediting those who make our mission here possible. Thank you for all that you do each and every day to make our work here the overwhelming success that it is. May God continue to bless you and God bless America.

-Castle 6

From the Commander cont.

(Continued from page 1)

Eagle to distribute their gifts. Many soldiers were on combat patrols conducting mosque monitoring and securing critical routes throughout our area of operation. We shook hands and visited with as many soldiers as possible and wished the Barracuda's a Merry Christmas. We left their gifts with First Sergeant Harris to distribute that evening at their Christmas Party.

Over the last nine months, our soldiers and their families have endured a great deal and made many sacrifices. On 4 December 2004, we were once again tragically reminded that freedom is not free. We mourn the loss and honor the memory of SGT Michael Luke Boatwright who was killed in action on that December morning. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family.

I can assure you that our collective sacrifices are making a difference. For the first time ever, we have given the Iraqi people hope for the future and a chance to live a better life that is free of oppression and filled with optimism for a better tomorrow. Even though this is a tough fight, democracy requires perseverance and we must stay the course. I am optimistic about establishing a stable Iraq and we ARE making a difference.

As I finish this letter, I can hear the angry whine of the engines of our M113 Armored personnel carriers as they move to the gate in preparation for yet another counter mortar mission on this Christmas Eve night. This quote from George Orwell sums it up "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." Rest well and sleep in peace tonight. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

-Lumberjack 6



Chaplain's Corner **CH(CPT) Darryl Gordon**

As 2004 quickly nears an end all I can do look back and say, "Wow." This year has truly flown by for me. It amazes me to think that a year ago the Lumberjacks were preparing to leave Ft. Hood to come to Iraq. Now we are all anticipating our preparation to leave Iraq and come back to Ft. Hood. Lord willing we will be home on time and soon.

This past year has been one that was filled with sadness as well as joy. Sadness in that we lost some of our friends and joy in that many of the soldiers are growing in their spiritual life. I mourn the loss of our brothers in arms, for I personally knew each one of the Lumberjacks that will not be returning to their loved ones. I rejoice with the soldiers that have grown closer to God while here. Whether mourning the loss of a friend or growing spiritually, the common factor is love that the Lumberjacks have one for another. For the only way to "deal" with the loss of a close friend or to grow spiritually is through the help of those around you.

Here on IRONHORSE Base we have several religious services in order to accommodate the different faiths represented. Every Sunday we have a Catholic Mass, a Gospel Service, a LDS Service, and a General Protestant Worship. Through these four services the majority of the Base has the opportunity to worship in their tradition. I am thankful to God for allowing us to minister to so many soldiers. We give the soldiers the opportunity to do as the Lord said in Matthew 22:37, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." My prayer is that each and every one of the Lumberjacks does this.

-Sapper Chapper

Barracuda News cont...

(Continued from page 3)

appreciated and it is always great to hear from our Lumberjack family.

There were a couple special attendees at the Christmas party. As expected Santa was able to make it here to Iraq and spread some Christmas cheer to the soldiers. The second attendee was our "Charlie Brown," Christmas tree. At first glance this tree looks a little rough but there is a history to it. In 1969 my grandmother mailed the same tree to my father who was serving in Vietnam. In 1999 my

father mailed it to me in Bosnia, the tree then went to Afghanistan with me 2001 and was here in Iraq with the Barracudas in 2004.



SPC Love and Santa



Captain Calvin Kroeger

The Barracuda Family grew this past month as we received seven new soldiers to the Company. The Barracudas would like to welcome the following soldiers and their families to our team. 2LT Andrew "Drew" Dornstader and family: parents John and Donna; brothers John Jr. and Steve; and fiancée Kate Youngblood. SGT Anthony Cassady and family: wife Julie; Children Justin, Katie, John, Alec, and Allisa. PVT Matthew Fettis and family: Grandparents Barry & Gloria Fettis and girlfriend Allison Papula. PVT Michael Mujica and family: parents Gilberto & Maria Mujica. PVT Joseph Samora and his mother Deborah. PVT Adam Hamann and family: parents SFC Douglas and Carolyn Hamann; and girlfriend Tina. PVT Tolbert King and family: Mother Cindy and fiancée Rebecca Rathbun. As I have said in the past, the support of the family is key to our success and we welcome the new soldiers and their families. I look forward to meeting all of the families upon our return to Fort Hood.

Also since we did not get in last months newsletter, we would like to announce the birth of another Sapper into the Barracuda Family. Christopher Richard Kroeger was born 23 November 2004 weighing in at 8lbs 6oz. Cathy and Calvin Kroeger were very fortunate to be reunited during CPT Kroeger's leave to celebrate the birth of their second son and also celebrate Thanksgiving with their other two children Cynthia and Caleb.

This month has been trying for the Barracudas but they continue to execute. The courage and spirit of the Barracudas is breathtaking and everyday I am reminded of what a great company I have been blessed with. Families should know that their soldiers set the standard daily and are among the best in the Army. Everything they accomplish is a direct reflection on their abilities and their family's support.

Thank you again for everything you do on a daily basis and be proud of your soldiers. We will be home soon and I look forward to meeting all of the family members.

-Barracuda 6



CPT Turk & "Charlie Brown Tree"

Promotions

In reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of the following Soldiers they are hereby promoted in grade in the following month. The Soldiers are hereby directed to discharge carefully and diligently the duties of the grade to which they were promoted and uphold the traditions and standards of the United States Army. As noncommissioned and commissioned officers these men and women are charged to observe and follow the orders and directions given by superiors acting according to the laws, articles and rules governing the discipline of the Army, and to correct conditions detrimental to the readiness thereof. In doing so, they will fulfill the greatest obligation as a leader and thereby confirm their status as a noncommissioned or commissioned officer in the United States Army.

Officer Promotions:

2LT Drouin was promoted to 1LT

Non-Commissioned Officer Promotions:

SGT Lambert was promoted to SSG

SPC Yang was promoted to SGT

Soldier Promotions:

PFC Beagle was promoted to SPC

PFC Dusatko was promoted to SPC

PFC Green, K. was promoted to SPC

PFC Hibbler was promoted to SPC

PFC Luna was promoted to SPC

PFC McKinney was promoted to SPC

PFC Toro was promoted to SPC

PV2 Campbell was promoted to PFC

PV2 Joy was promoted to PFC

The Night Before Christmas. . .cont.

(Continued from page 1)

When out in the hall there came such a clap,
The XO sprang from his chair where he was taking a nap.

He raced to the door and yelled for the 3,
But no need to fear, it was just the Commander and me.

Lumberjack 9 and Lumberjack 6
With camo bags on our backs and Santa hats just for kicks.

We traveled through hallways delivering gifts and spreading cheer,
Smiling as we went while wearing our OTV and all our gear.

We shook hands and said Merry Christmas as we walked through the halls,
Everyone received a stocking and some even made phone calls.

As we finished our trip having passed out all the stockings and gifts,
We remember the soldiers we've lost, who are loved and missed

Though far from home—away from family this Christmas;
You've made it better with your prayers and best wishes.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart--with all of my might;
Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight.

-Lumberjack 9



Private Joy is promoted to Private First Class.

From the FRG...

Beth Holmes

What a wonderful Children's Christmas Party we had on December 11th at the DAV! Santa had gifts for all of the children present and the DAV 'kitchen staff' had plenty of delicious food for everyone – our BN families, and the DAV members and their families. An extra special thank you is in order for C Co.: they generously shared their donated Wal-Mart gift certificates to cover the expense of the gifts for our BN children!

Toyota of Killeen sent several hundred Beanie Baby toys to our deployed soldiers to distribute to the Iraqi Children in the new year. What a thoughtful Christmas gift for our troops – yet another opportunity to reach out to the locals and share that shining American spirit!

Please remember the next BN FRG meeting –

Monday, January 17th, 2004

6:30pm

Community Events Center

(at the end of the parking lot at the Toyland entrance to the Clear Creek PX)

We'll share BN FRG information, start planning redeployment celebrations, and give up-to-the-minute news from our deployed soldiers. Please plan to join us! Can't find a babysitter? Just bring a quiet activity for your children!

Our various fundraisers are still going strong, so don't miss out!

BN:	"I LOVE MY SAPPER" key chains	\$3
	1BCT afghans (pre-orders)	\$30
HHC:	Psalms 91 DCU bandanas	\$4
	"Engineers are my heroes" t-shirts	\$10
A Co:	2005 calendars/posters	\$5
	"Operation Iraqi Freedom" t-shirts	\$13.50
B Co:	20 th ENG BN t-shirts	\$10
C Co:	Italian charm bracelets with military charms	\$7 per charm
		\$6 per bracelet

2004 has been packed full of learning and growing opportunities for our BN FRG families. Time and again, I've seen folks drop everything to be of help to someone else. I thank you for your willingness to reach out – you are such an inspiration!

Happy 2005! We certainly have a LOT to look forward to!

Beth Holmes

20th ENG BN FRG Leader/Advisor

Around the Battalion



PFC Funez pulls security during an infrastructure reconnaissance mission.



CPT Distefano and SFC Marsicek serve Christmas dinner.



Colonel Abrams presents SPC Phillips with the Combat Medical Badge at an awards ceremony on 1 Dec.



SGT Stout hands packages to PFC Martinez while SPC Mangus looks on.



PFC Salto on an EOD Escort mission.



A Barracuda soldier examines a flier on a recent mission to deliver school supplies.

CPT Kristy Schaffer, PAO
20th Engineer Battalion
Unit #90014
APO AE 09373

FREE